

X-MEN

15¢

65
FEB

THE STRANGEST TEENS OF ALL!

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
CARTOON
AUTHORITY

X-MEN

MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

GET HIM, CYCLOPS!
IT'S UP TO YOU
AND ICEMAN
NOW!

THEY CAME FROM SPACE...
CRUEL CONQUERORS
FROM ANOTHER STAR!

COULD THE X-TRAORDINARY
X-MEN SAVE ALL MAN-
KIND FROM BECOMING...

"SLAVES
OF THE
STAR-
SPAWN!"

**I put 2 full inches on my arms—
3 inches on my chest and trimmed
4 inches off my waist
in just 7 weeks...**

thanks to the Joe Weider
Musclebuilding Course!"—

WHY NOT YOU?

SAYS MOVIE AND T.V. STAR,
ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER,

"Mr. Universe" winner. He
believes you, too, can easily
duplicate his musclebuilding
success with the Weider Course.

Why only the Joe Weider "MR. AMERICA"
muscle-building course can **MUSCLE YOU UP —
SHAPE YOU UP — TOUGHEN YOU UP — FAST** in just
7 short weeks—and in the privacy of your own home.

It makes no difference whether you're fat, skinny, scraggly or flabby, young or not-so-young—whether you're an office worker, laborer, executive or schoolboy—the WEIDER SYSTEM will pack 4 inches on your chest, 3 inches on each arm—give you football-player shoulders, muscularize your waistline, sock your legs with strength and speed—and "powerize" your entire body—in JUST 7 SHORT WEEKS—OR LESS!

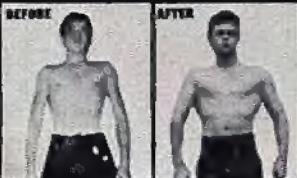
Only the WEIDER SYSTEM can do this for you because it is based on scientific principle—and proven by the hundreds of thousands of Champions it has developed since 1938. Practically every Mr. America, Mr. Universe and other "perfect man" title winners used the WEIDER SYSTEM to build their muscle-stuffed bodies.

NO OTHER MUSCLE-BUILDING SYSTEM ON EARTH CAN MATCH THIS FABULOUS RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT—AND NOW THAT SAME SURE-FIRE SYSTEM IS ENTIRELY WITHIN YOUR REACH!

Just rush in free coupon and I will send you proof that you too can own a new "Wildcat Take-Charge" body in just 7 short weeks—it's free, while the supply lasts!

HERE'S LIVING PROOF HOW FAST MY COURSE WORKS!

... IN ONLY 14 DAYS



HE GAINS 16 POUNDS
BEFORE: Walter Leno, Jr. was weak and "under-nourished" looking—ashamed to be seen anywhere in public.
AFTER: Walter used Weider methods and in just 14 days put on 16 pounds, $2\frac{1}{4}$ on his arms and $2\frac{1}{4}$ on his chest!

**IT CAN HAPPEN
TO YOU, TOO!**

... IN ONLY 30 DAYS



HE GAINS 25 LBS.
BEFORE: Paul Carmody weighed a skinny 135 lbs. with "toothpick" arms and a shallow chest. He longed to be big and strong.
AFTER: Paul put himself under Weider methods and gained 25 muscular lbs. in 30 days, adding $1\frac{1}{2}$ " to his arms, 5" to his chest!

WHY NOT YOU?

THE STRONGEST, MOST VIRILE AND ADMIRER MEN ARE BUILT BY THE WEIDER SYSTEM—FAST!



**FREE!
BIG
MUSCLE-
BUILDING
BOOK!**

MAIL THIS COUPON TO ME TODAY AND I'LL RUSH YOU MY NEW BIG 34-PAGE ILLUSTRATED BOOK—FREE! It's jam-packed with proof that you can become an athletic, virile, "Take-Charge" He-Man in just 7 WEEKS—OR LESS! It's loaded with photos, tips, suggestions that will help make your fondest musclebuilding dreams come true—just as it did for Arnold Schwarzenegger and over 2,000,000 other successful students! SEND FOR IT NOW—it's ABSOLUTELY FREE!

JOE WEIDER

Is your Personal Trainer?
He has trained almost
every "Mr. America", "Mr.
Universe", "Mr. Canada",
perfect male title winners
since 1938—and over
2,000,000 successful
pupils the world over!
No other instructor in history can come
close to this fantastic record!



MAIL THIS COUPON FOR FREE BOOK

JOE WEIDER

Dept. 83 - 20 A
531 - 32nd Street
Union City, New Jersey 07087

Dear Joe: Okay, sock it to me! Rush me your Free musclebuilding information and Free "Muscle Up" book that I can use right away to build a handsome new "Take-Charge" body—in just 7 short weeks—in the privacy of my own home. I'm enclosing 25¢ to cover mailing and handling costs. I'm under no further obligation.

NAME (please print clearly) AGE

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

**YOU'RE UNDER NO OBLIGATION
— NOTHING TO BUY!**

X-MEN THE MOST UNUSUAL FIGHTING TEAM OF TIME!™

"BEFORE I'D BE A SLAVE . . ."



STAN LEE DARED ASK HIMSELF: WHO COULD TELL A PERIL-PACKED TALE WITH A PERTINENT MESSAGE FOR THE MODERN WORLD? THE ANSWER:

DENNIS NEAL O'NEIL ADAMS (WRITER)(ARTIST)
AIDED BY:
TOM PALMER (INKER)
JEAN IZZO (LETTERER)

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SO, EACH OF THE WEARY MUTANTS RETIRES BRIEFLY...TO DON A COSTUME, AND MUSE...



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CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

Conversation Piece...Collector's Item...Puzzle

THE AMAZING PENNY IN-A BOTTLE



2 for
\$1

EACH IN ITS
OWN LITTLE
BOTTLE

1 1968-S Cent...
1 1969-S Cent



Reminds You Of The Classic
Ship-In-A-Bottle

HOW DID THE PENNIES GET INSIDE??? HOW DID THEY FIT???

How can something so big fit into something so small?

The bottles are real. No seams. No false bottoms. Solid glass! Yet there they are... the pennies are inside and can't get out?

WHAT'S THE SECRET? HOW DID THEY EVER GET IN? CAN YOU
FIGURE IT OUT? CAN YOUR FRIENDS SOLVE THE MYSTERY?

A Fascinating Puzzle...Defies All the Rules...Can Your Eyes Be Playing Tricks on You???

ABOUT THE COINS IN THE BOTTLES

"S" tells you the coin was made in the San Francisco mint. The mint mark appears under the date on the "heads" side. This was the first coin since 1955. A true collector's item!

Coins made from the original Lincoln engraving became worn and lost detail. The 1969 cent restores Mr. Lincoln to his original likeness. Hair detail is sharper, garment folds clearer. Everything has been spiced up!



DID YOU KNOW THESE LINCOLN CENT FACTS???

The 1909 cent minted in San Francisco bears the designer's initials—VDB (Victor D. Brenner). Only 480,000 were minted. Some sell for close to \$200. Is there one in your bank?

• The Lincoln Cent has enjoyed the longest run of any U.S. coin. Introduced in 1909, the 100th Anniversary of Lincoln's birth.

After 50 years the design of the reverse was changed. From two ears of wheat to the Lincoln Memorial. Designer: Frank Gasparro.



More Lincoln Cents have been minted than the number of people in the world!



In 1943-45 pennies were grey. They were made of zinc coated steel during the war. And in 1944-45 they were made of melted down ammunition cases.

SEND FOR YOUR PENNIES-IN-A-BOTTLE TODAY!

FREE



Coin checklist with your order plus coin kit information plus information about ordering the last U.S. silver coins ever minted.

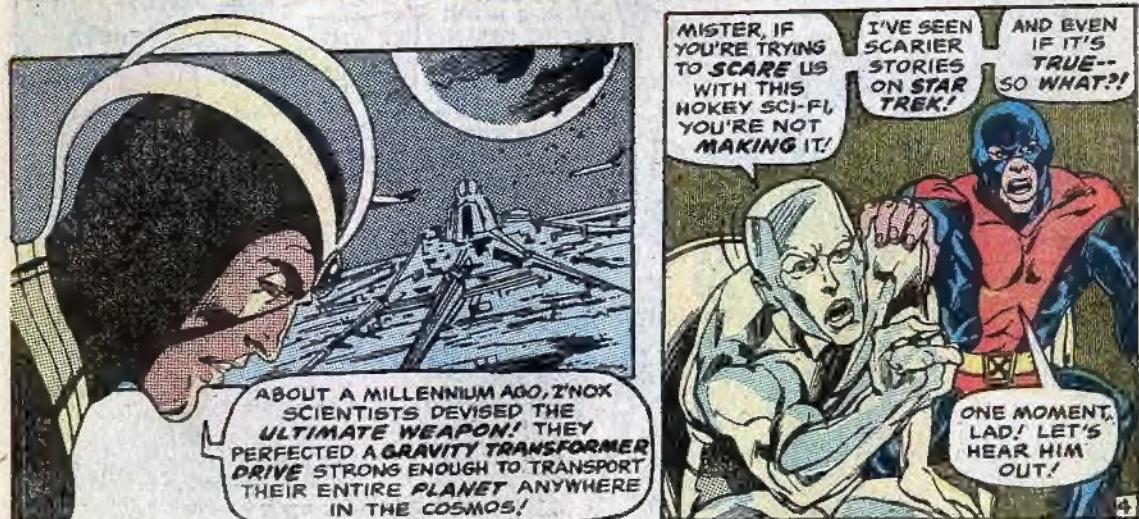
Sirs: Please rush my 2 Pennies-In-A-Bottle, the Free Coin Checklist and complete Coin Collecting Information \$1.00 is enclosed.

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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IF YOU HADN'T SLEPT THROUGH YOUR HIGH-SCHOOL SCIENCE CLASSES, SONNY, YOU'D KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN TWO PLANETS GET CLOSE--!

THE DELICATE BALANCE OF GRAVITY IS UPSET... CAUSING TIDAL WAVES, EARTHQUAKES...

--DESTRUCTIVE FORCES THAT MAKE A COBALT BOMB LOOK LIKE A CAP PISTOL!

YEAH, YEAH, IT'S A BAD SCENE! BUT WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH US?

JUST THIS... RIGHT NOW, THE Z'NOX WORLD IS PASSING THE ORBIT OF SATURN...

WITHIN 24 HOURS, IT'LL INTERCEPT EARTH!

LAST NIGHT, A Z'NOX CRAFT ARRIVED--ITS MISSION, TO SERVE AS HOMING BEACON FOR THE MOTHER PLANET!

IT LANDED AT--THE SOUTH MAGNETIC POLE!

THE SOUTH MAGN--?

THEY'RE COMING, FRIENDS! THEY'RE ALMOST HERE!

DO YOU THINK I'D MAKE UP A THING LIKE THAT?

YOUR VERACITY IS NOT PRECISELY WASHINGTONESQUE!

FOR YOUR SAKE, I HOPE YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH, BROTHER! BECAUSE IF YOU'RE NOT--

ALEX... HAVE YOU ANY PROOF?

UNCLENCH, SCOTTY! SAVE THE MUSCLE FOR THE ENEMY!

SCOTT... HE ISN'T LYING--!



*NONE WILL FORGET THE "DEATH" OF THE X-MEN'S BELOVED MENTOR, AS ROYALLY RELATED IN ISH #42! -- STENTORIAN STAN.

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CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #96: The Mad Thinker is back—more powerful than ever, and aided by his Androids of Death! 'Nuff said!

SPIDER-MAN #82: This is a special ish, in more ways than one! Star-ring the eerie menace of—Electro! And wait till you see the art!

SILVER SURFER #13: A doomsday bomb, about to destroy the earth! The Surfer, alone on an isle of death! It's drama beyond compare!

AVENGERS #73: The Black Panther battles alone—against the sinister Sons of the Serpent! An instant classic!

THOR #173: All of you could ask for—and more! Utik unleashed! The Ringmaster and his Circus of Crime! And action! Action! Action!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #123: Can a female defeat Cap? Don't answer till you meet Suprema, deadliest of the species!

X-MEN #65: The return of the most unexpected mutant of all!

Plus—a battle royal against—the Star Spawn!

DAREDEVIL #61: The leering, lethal Jester—the cunning Cobra—the unstoppable Mr. Hyde! And all they want is—DD's death!

HULK #125: The Absorbing Man is back—and ol' Green-Skin's got him! Or—is it the other way around? The answer'll rock ya!

IRON MAN #23: There's never been a hired assassin like—the Mercenary! If you like duel—to-the-death thrills, this one's for you!

SUB-MARINER #23: At last! The warlord Krang strikes back! Plus—the menace of Orka, the Human Killer Whale!

SGR. FURY #75: We call it "The Deserter!"—and you'll call it one of the greatest war-mags of all time! We kid you not!

TOWER OF SHADOWS #4: Marvel at its most macabre—with three of the most far-out fantasies of all! Watch out for falling bats!

MARVEL TALES #25: The web-spinner—the thunder god—and the battling, blazing fireball! Together again in one mag—and terrific!

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #25: The Man Without Fear—and the Mutants Without Peer—in other words, DD and the X-Men ... and a green-skinned surprise!

AND, OF COURSE—

MY LOVE #4—WHERE MONSTERS DWELL #2—RINGO KID #2—KID COLT OUTLAW #143—MILLIE THE MODEL #180—CHILI #11—MAD ABOUT MILLIE #9—HOMER THE HAPPY GHOST #3—and PETER THE LITTLE PEST #3!

and, STILL ON SALE—

CHAMBER OF DARKNESS #3: The night is dark—the moon is full—and mysterious Marvel's back with three of its spookiest tales yet!

CAPT. SAVAGE #18: It's action time—as Simon Savage blasts his way out of a death camp in the war-torn Pacific!

MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS #25: The F.F.—fighting side by side with the Sub-Mariner! Not to mention Iron Man and Doc Strange!

Plus **OUR LOVE STORY #3—RAW-HIDE KID #74**—and maybe another mag or two even we can't remember!

Whew!

EXCITING NEW MARVELMANIA CLUB INTERNATIONAL

JUMBO POSTER - 2 FEET BY 3 FEET
2 POSTERS COVER A DOOR



POSTER VALUE \$1.50



JUMBO DECAL

EXTRA BONUS

JOIN NOW AND RECEIVE
11 EXTRA DECALS



DECAL SHEET VALUE \$1.50

HERE IS MY \$1.75 PLUS .25 POSTAGE AND HANDLING
PLEASE RUSH MY MEMBERSHIP KIT...

SEND TO MARVELMANIA: DEPT. M
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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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50th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL BONUS OFFER

OFFICIAL NFL HELMETS

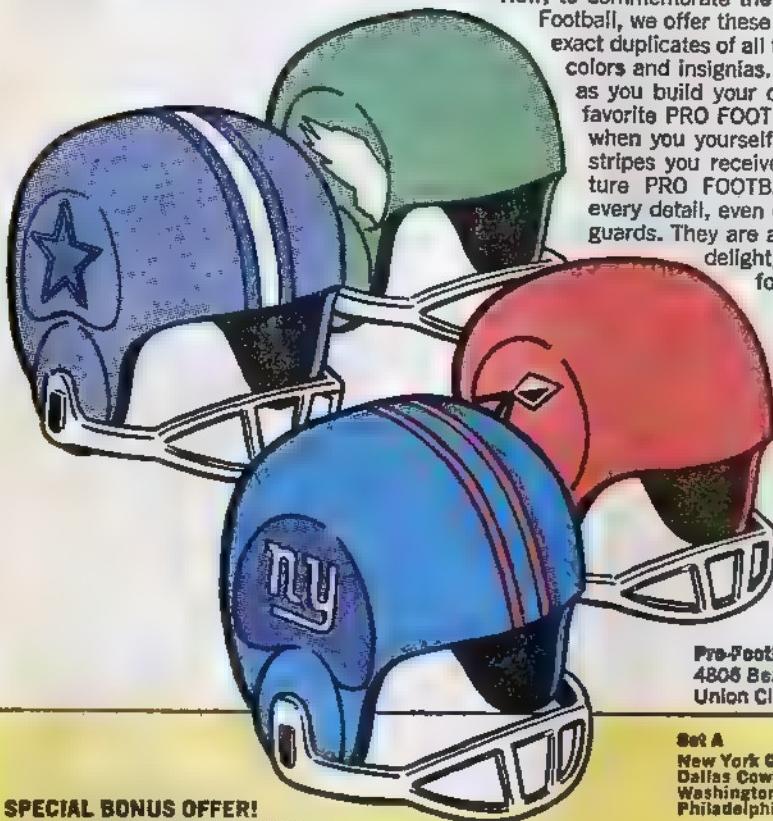
BEAUTIFUL MINIATURE REPLICAS

FOR KIDS FROM 6 TO 60

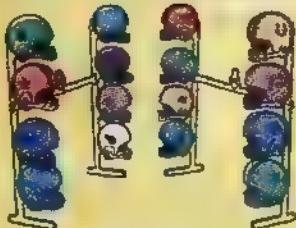
4 FOR \$11
ONLY



Now, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Professional Football, we offer these beautiful miniature toy helmets—exact duplicates of all the National Football League team colors and insignias. Imagine the surprise and delight as you build your own special collection of all your favorite PRO FOOTBALL TEAMS. You will be thrilled when you yourself put on the teams' insignias and stripes you receive with the helmets. These miniature PRO FOOTBALL HELMETS are complete in every detail, even down to the tiny detachable faceguards. They are a football fan's ideal, a collector's delight, and a treasured toy in the family for years and years to come.



SPECIAL BONUS OFFER!
ALL 16 HELMETS ONLY \$3.00
PLUS 2 FREE DISPLAY GOAL POSTS
with OFFICIAL N.F.L. EMBLEMS



Yes, if you wish to purchase all 16 HELMETS at one time, you will save \$1.00 on the purchase price, and in addition, receive 2 goal posts complete with N.F.L. insignia. These goal posts are specially designed to display all 16 little helmets.

ALSO AVAILABLE: ALL 16 OFFICIAL A.F.L.
HELMETS PLUS GOAL POST FOR ONLY \$2.

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Hours and Hours of Fun and Excitement for the Whole Family. ASSEMBLE THEM... SHOW THEM... EVEN TRADE THEM. Be among the first to start this exciting collection. Make your child the hero of the neighborhood with this 50th Anniversary Gridiron Classic. These little helmets are available in sets of four for only \$1.00 as listed below.

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Union City, N. J. 07087

Set A
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Dallas Cowboys
Washington Redskins
Philadelphia Eagles

Set B
Cleveland Browns
Pittsburgh Steelers
New Orleans Saints
St. Louis Cardinals

Set C
Green Bay Packers
Minnesota Vikings
Chicago Bears
Detroit Lions

Set D
Baltimore Colts
Los Angeles Rams
San Francisco 49ers
Atlanta Falcons

Pro-Football Merchandising, Inc. 4806 Bergantine Avenue, Union City, N. J. 07087

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Gentlemen:

Please send me the following HELMET SETS:

- Set A \$1.00 plus 25¢ post. & hdig. Set C \$1.00 plus 25¢ post. & hdig.
 Set B \$1.00 plus 25¢ post. & hdig. Set D \$1.00 plus 25¢ post. & hdig.
 All 16 N.F.L. HELMETS \$3.00 postpaid. Plus 2 FREE GOAL POSTS
 All 16 A.F.L. HELMETS \$2.00 postpaid. Plus 1 FREE GOAL POST
I enclose cash, check or money order. Sorry, no C.O.D.

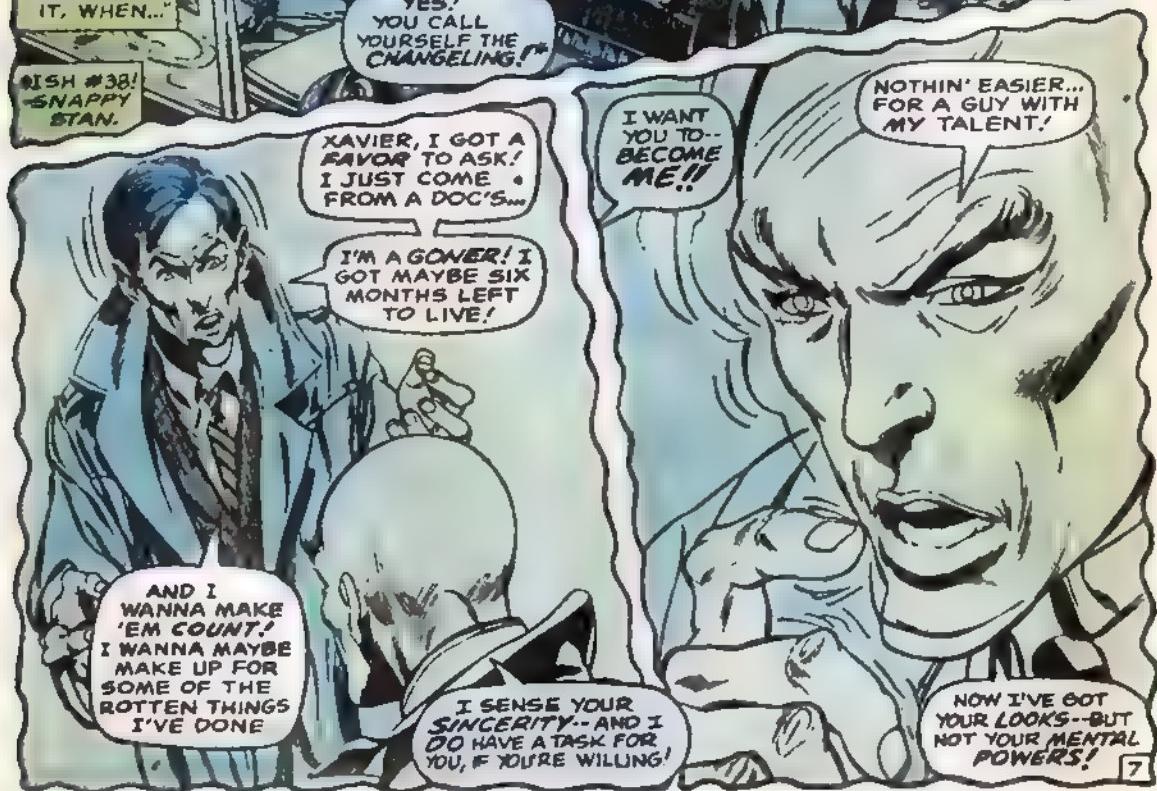
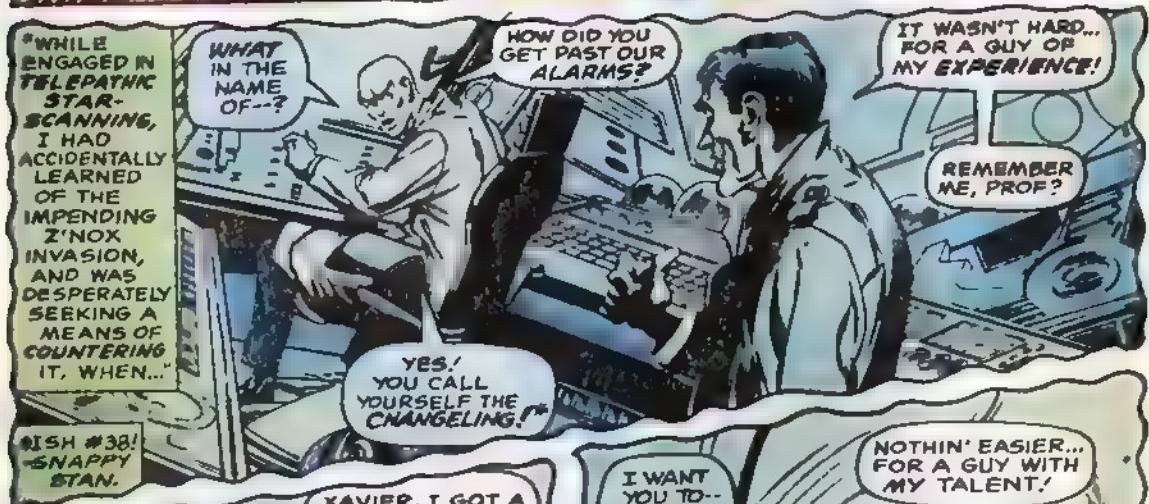
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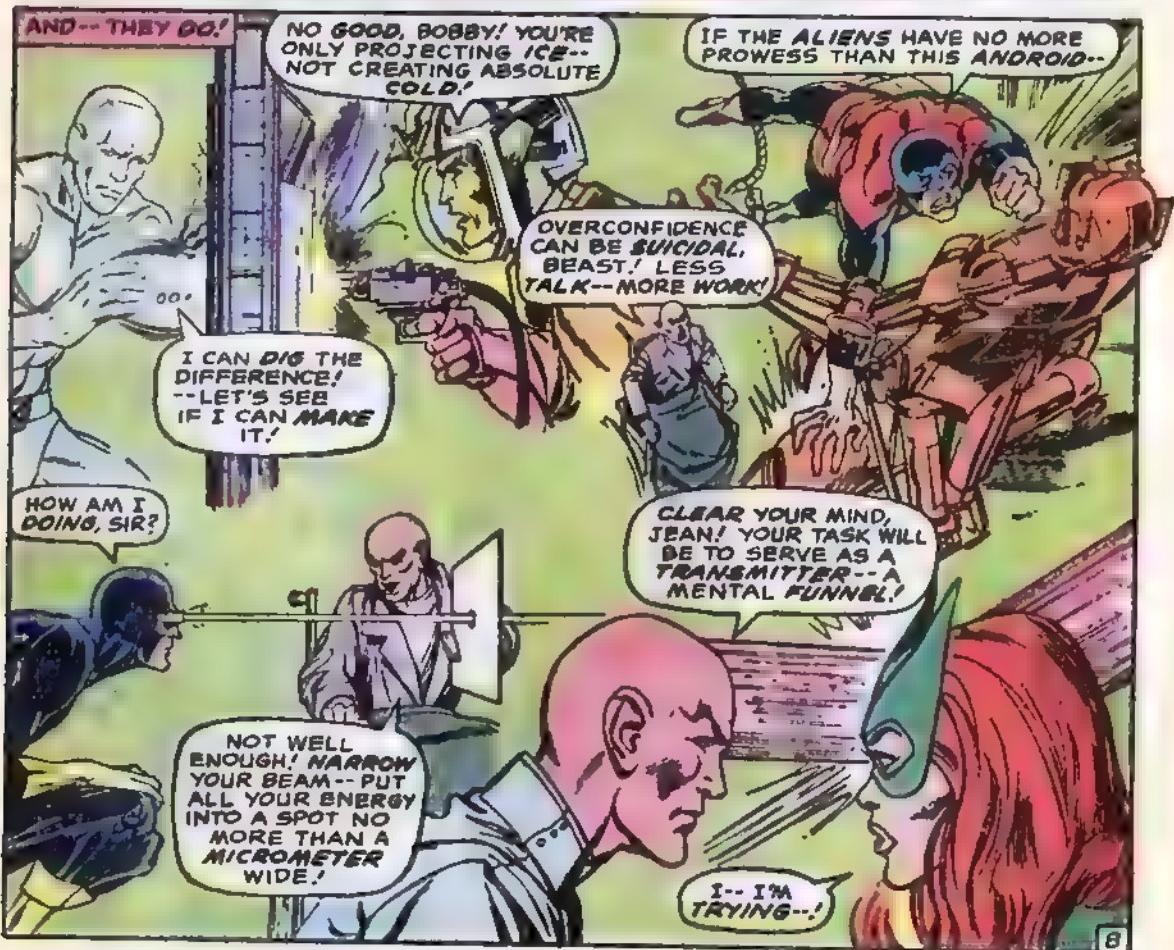
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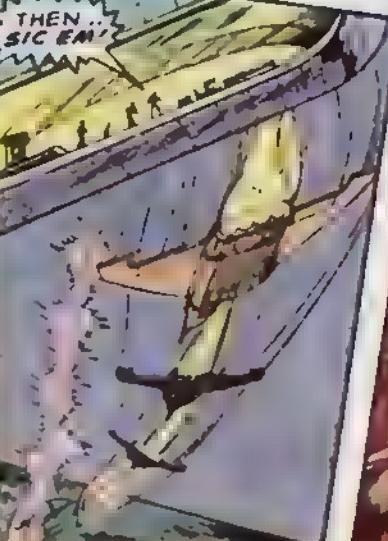
...EN AS THE MUTANTS AND THEIR MENTOR STRIVE TO SHARPEN THEIR SPECTACULAR SKILLS, ANOTHER FORCE IS PREPARING TO HURL ITSELF AGAINST THE INVADERS - FOR IN THE SOMBRE SKIES ABOVE THE SOUTH MAGNETIC POLE...

WE HAVE THE BOSSY PINPOINTED, COLONEL. IT APPEARS TO BE OF EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL ORIGIN!

HOORAY FOR IT!

YOU BIRDIES ALL SET?

READY TO GO, COLONEL FURY!



ONE BY ONE, SHIELD'S SLEEK WARPLANES PLUMMET TOWARD THEIR TARGET LIKE IMPOSSIBLY SWIFT BIRDS OF PREY...



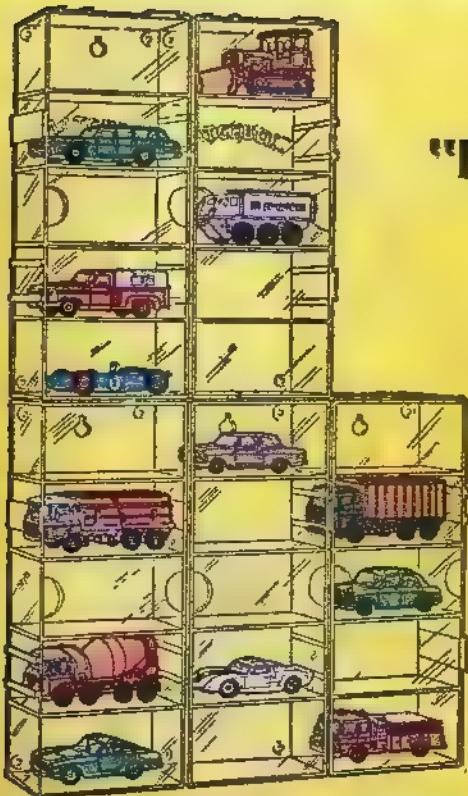
--ONLY TO BE MET WITH INSTANTANEOUS ANNIHILATION FROM THE MERCILESS Z'NOK WEAPONS!

I HADN'T COUNTED ON SHIELD INTERVENTION!



THEIR ATTACK WILL ALERT THE STAR-SPAWN!

WE'VE GOT TO ACT IMMEDIATELY!



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Equipment, Bike Equipment,
Hunting Knife, Models and other
things boys like.

Grab this opportunity to have your own profitable business. GRIT will help you get started—send you papers and selling helps. You pay only for the papers you sell until you know how many to order. GRIT is easy to sell. It is the favorite newspaper for more than 1,200,000 families from coast to coast every week.

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In Case of _____

Street and No. _____ R. R. D. _____

Post Office _____ State _____

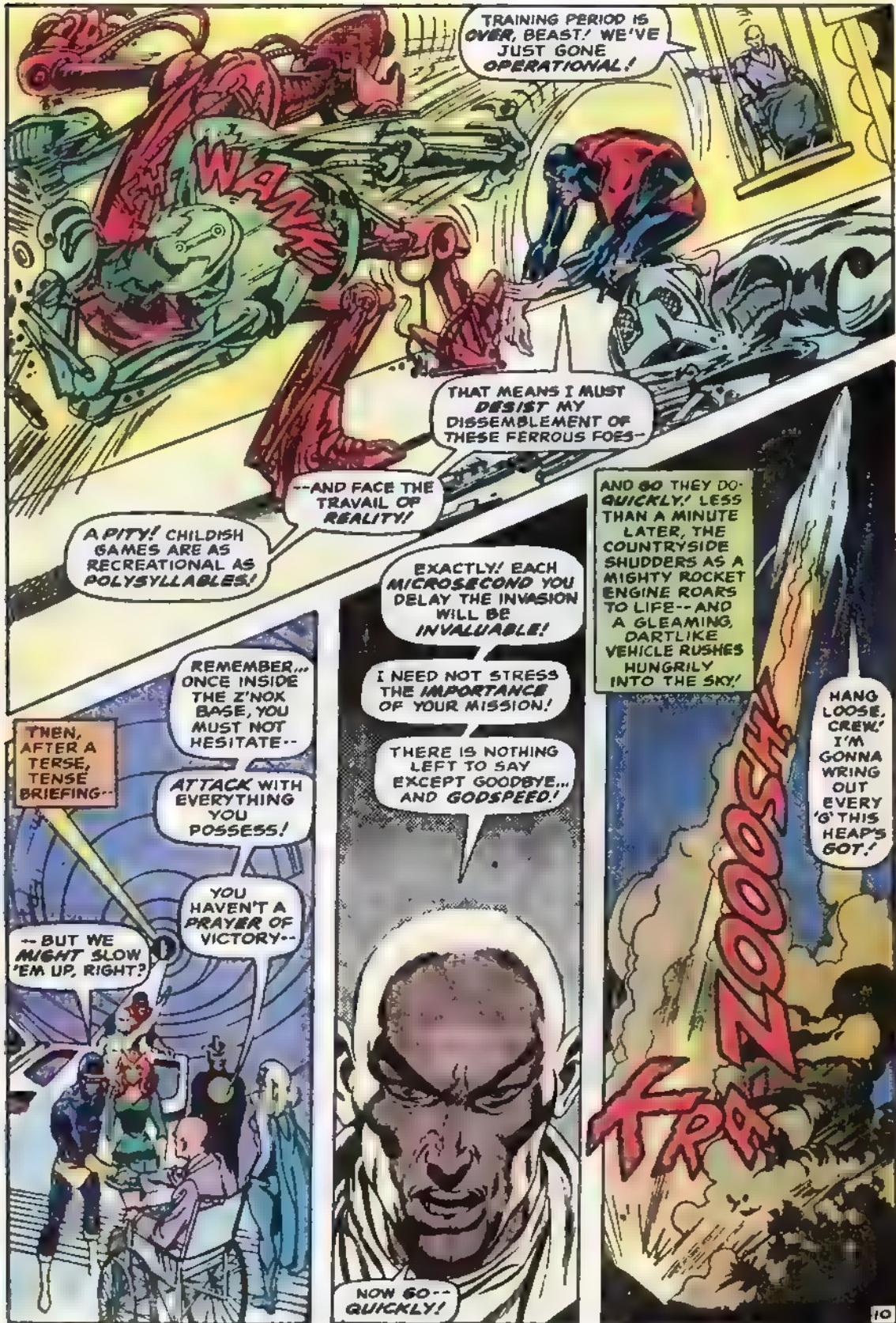
Zip Code No. _____

Print Your
Last Name
Plainly Here



**MAIL
THIS
TODAY**

In an Envelope
Papers sent only
to boys in
Continental U. S.



AND, POLEWARD...

OUR VICTIMS LAUNCH YET ANOTHER PROJECTILE AT US!

IT IS OF NO CONSEQUENCE! THEIR ANTIQUES CAN NOT PENETRATE OUR SCREEN!

LET THEM EXHAUST THEMSELVES! IT WILL MAKE THE SURVIVORS MORE DOCILE...

--WHEN WE TAKE THEM TO OUR WORLD --AS MERE SLAVES!

BUT, LEADER-- THE PROJECTILE HAS PASSED OUR SCREEN!

ACTIVATE THE DISRUPTOR MISSILES!

UNERRINGLY, THE Z'NOX DEVICES SEEK OUT THE X-MEN'S CRAFT-- BUT CHARLES XAVIER HAS PREPARED WELL--

--CONSTRUCTED IT IN LAYERS OF INCREDIBLY TOUGH ALLOY! EACH SHELL IS BLASTED AWAY WITHOUT HARM TO ITS PRECIOUS CARGO--

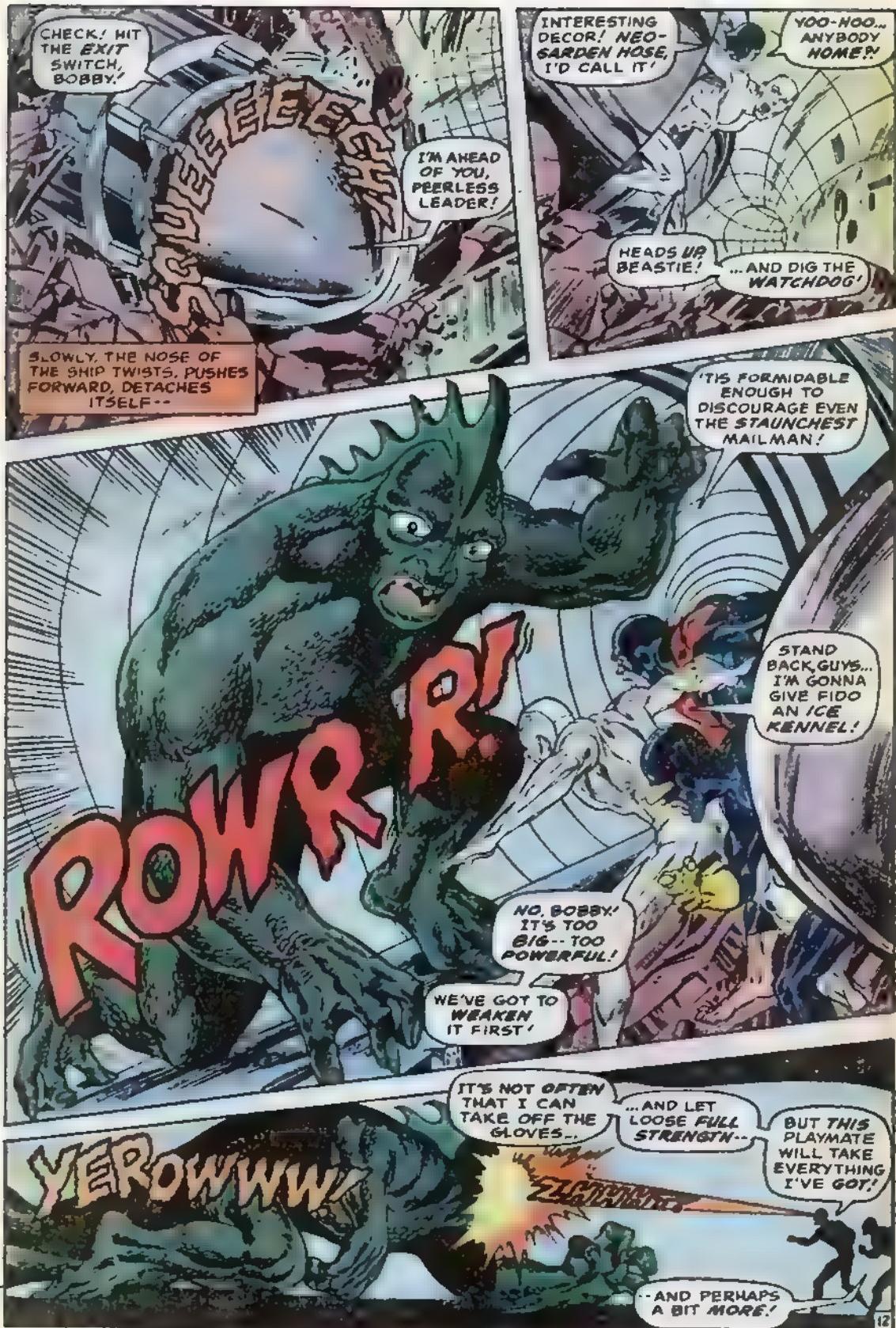
FINALLY, THE NEEDLE-SLIM CORE IMBEDS ITSELF IN ITS OBJECTIVE!

AN UTTERANCE OF SHEER HYPERBOLE, CYKE! IF THIS IS YOUR IDEA OF SAFETY--

--UNTIL IT IS TOO CLOSE TO THE ALIEN VESSEL FOR THE Z'NOX TO RISK ANOTHER SHOT!

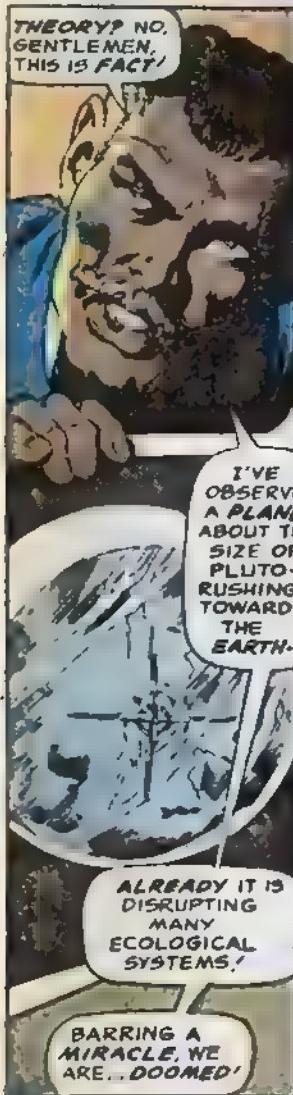
YEAH... I'M SURE THE GEEKS KNOW THEY HAVE GUESTS!

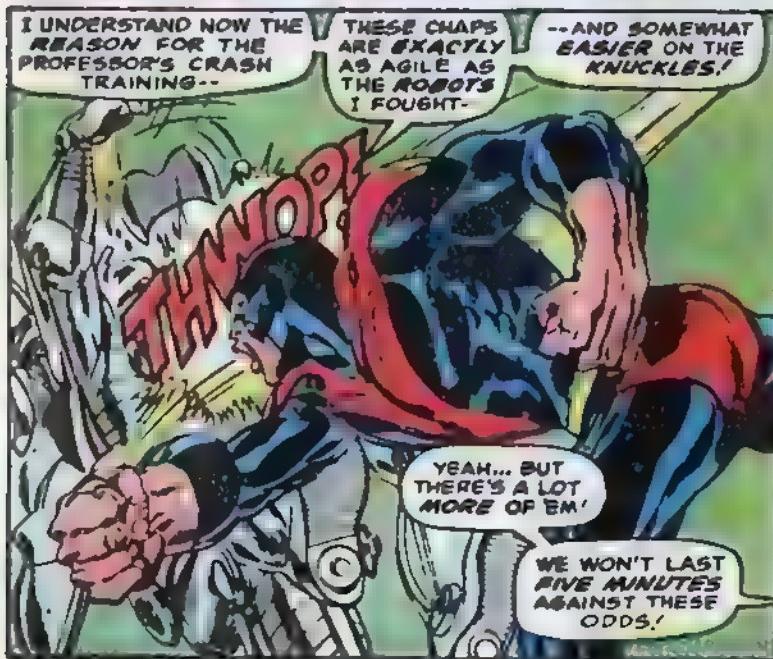
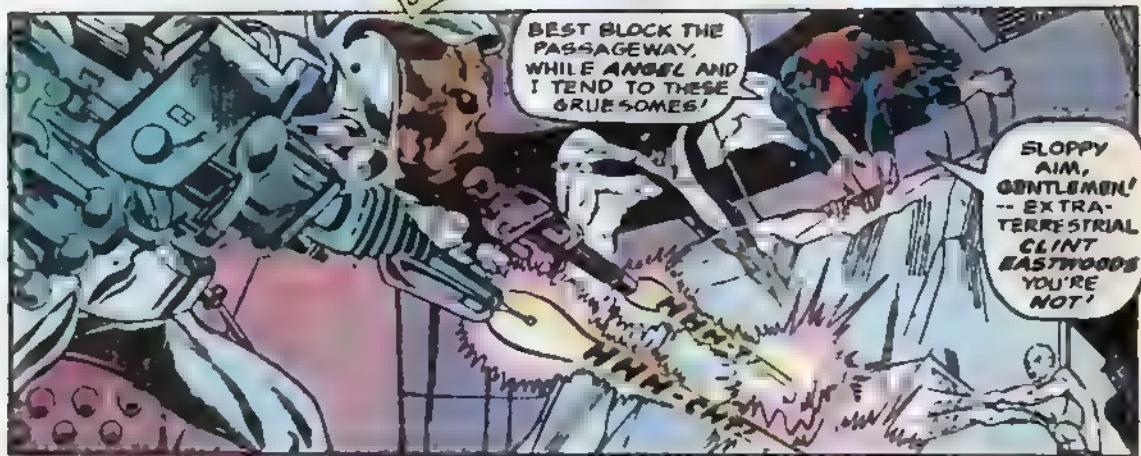
WELL LET'S GO GREET THE WELCOMING COMMITTEE!



"GOOD EVENING.
WELL, THE
NEWS TONIGHT
IS... DISASTERS!
SEVERAL
ASIAN FRONTS
HAVE BEEN
HIT BY
EARTHQUAKES!
AND ACCORDING
TO A REPORT
JUST IN A
SMALL PACIFIC
ISLAND HAS
SUNK!"
DAVID?"

"THERE ARE
AS MANY
THEORIES
EXPLAINING
THE CATASTROPHES
AS THERE ARE
SCIENTISTS!
ONE OF THE
MOST
INTERESTING
HAS BEEN
PROPOSED
BY DR.
THEODORE
NORTON'S
NOTED
ASTRONOMER."







CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



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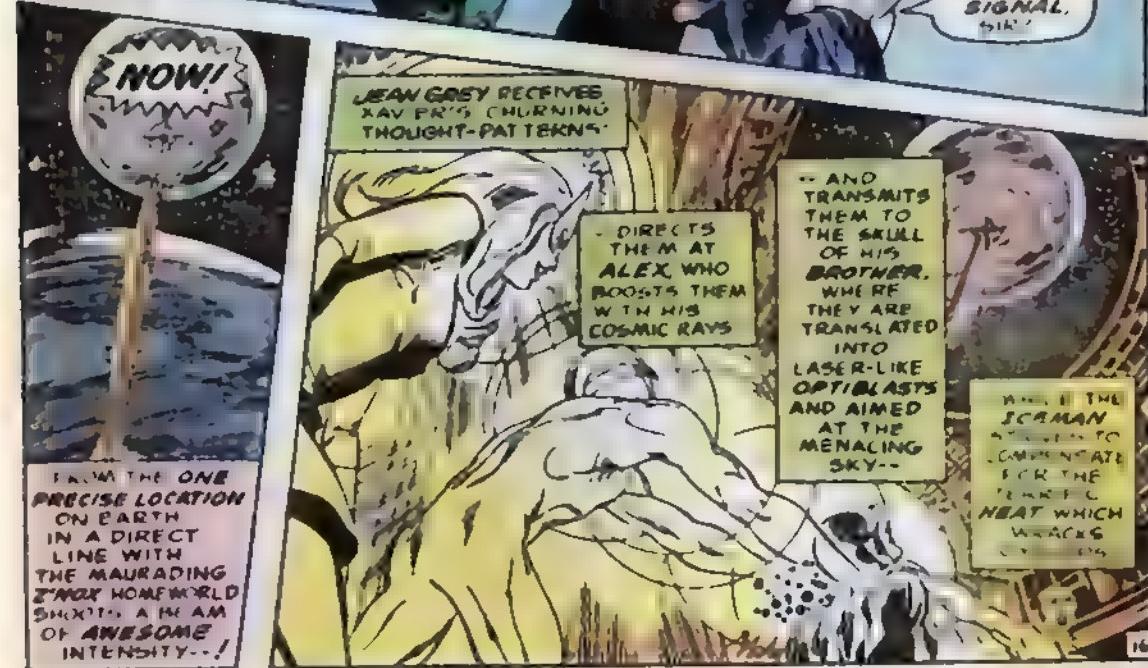
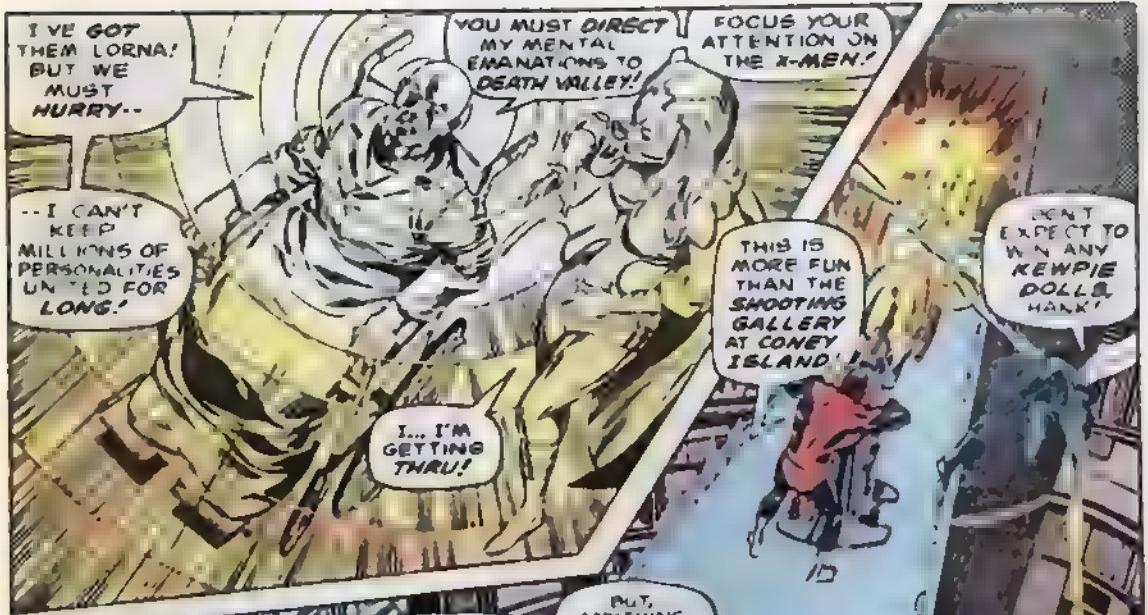
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CONSUMING DETERMINATION...



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18
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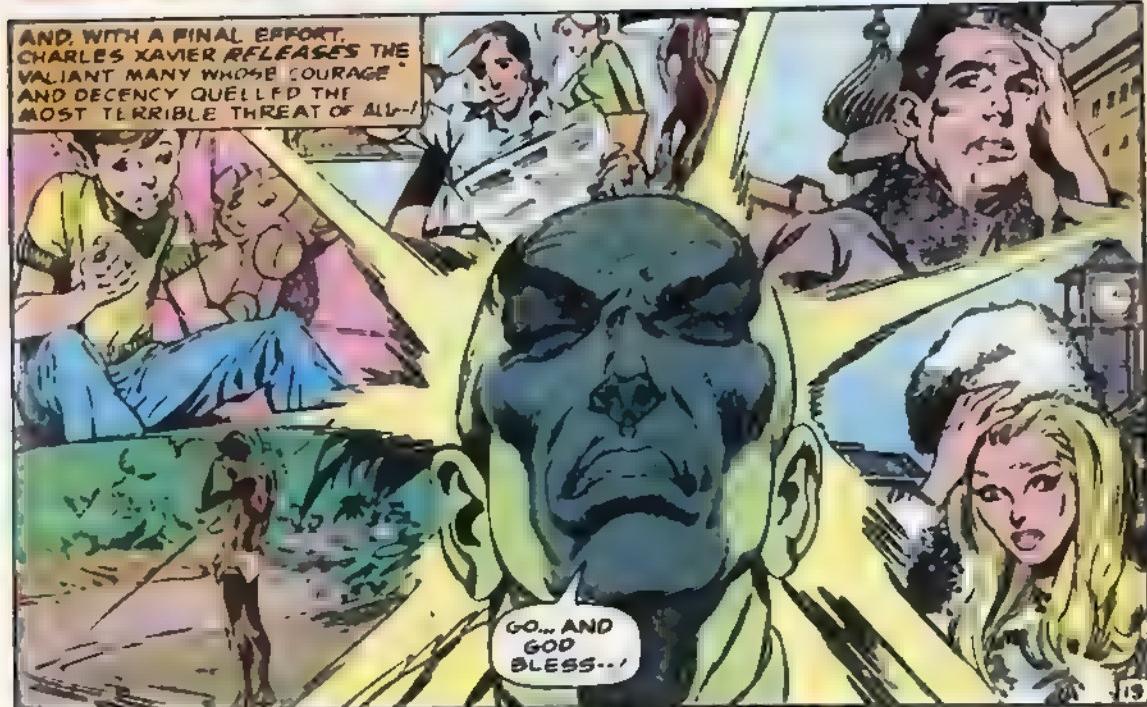
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INCREDIBLE ITEMS AND INCONCEIVABLE INFO OF INESTIMABLE IMPORTANCE!

ITEM! The biggest news of the month is the fact that JAZZY JOHN NY ROMITA will be penciling SPIDER MAN once more. But we've still another surprise in store for all you Spideyphiles—Stan and Johnny have decided to go back to the Web-Swinger's original style of story picturization and also to put more emphasis on Peter Parker's private life, as so many of you have requested. So whatever you do, don't dare miss SPIDER MAN #82 now on sale. It marks the beginning of still another plateau of greatness for the most realistic, most respected, most razzle dazzle superhero the world has ever known. And we've been giving you the soft sell, cause you know how we hate to brag!

ITEM! Remember ol' JERRY SIEGEL, one of comicdom's top name pioneers who basked in our Bullpen before heading for a more leisurely life on the West Coast? Well, just thought you'd like to know that his daughter recently won a scholarship to UCLA. Our congrats to a grand guy and his groovy girl child.

ITEM! We've finally made up our minds! After all these years, we're gonna see if we can do it! It'll probably set the comics-mag world back on its collective ear, but nothing'll stop us! It's such an earth-shattering decision, that we hardly know how to tell you! It's like the end of an era! It'll shatter the traditions of Marveldom to their very foundation! But, do it we must and do it we shall! So, hold onto your hats, cause here's the bit! Starting sooner or later, in some ish or other, we're gonna try using PERIODS instead of those fush-lugginer EXCLAMATION POINTS with which we've been ending every sentence since comics began! It'll take a while before you'll notice the change because we print our mags so many months in advance, but watch for it—if you can stand the shock! Will it lessen your reading pleasure? Will it toss you off balance? Will you think you picked up the wrong mag? Will anyone give a hoot? Only time will tell! Only Marvel would care! Only the Thing has four-fingered hands!

ITEM! For years, LAUGHIN LARRY LIEBER has been the butt of a zillion jokes around here because of his painstaking approach to everything he writes and draws. In fact, MERRY MARIE SEVERIN used to claim it took Larry as long to sharpen his pencil as it took anyone else to draw a couple of pages. Of course Larry proudly replied that he had the sharpest pencils in the place! Anyway, we've suddenly realized that the Laughing One's RAW

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Each week brings hundreds of letters asking exactly how we produce our mags. And now, if the competition will promise not to peek, here's where we'll try to clue you in. First, the artist and the writer have a story conference, because, unlike other comic-mag publishers, Marvel believes the artist contributes as much to the story as the writer does. Then once the plot details have been worked out the artist goes off by his lonesome and draws the strip in pencil—drawing it any way he pleases, since the script hasn't yet been written (So far as we know, Marvel is the only company to use this free and easy, highly-creative method—Free plug!) Next, the pencilled drawings are given to the writer, who creates the dialogue balloons, captions, and any other copy needed. After that, a letterer prints all the copy in the correct places (we hope), using a lettering pen dipped in jet black India ink. Finally, the pages go to the inker (embellisher) (or delineator—depending upon how fancy you are), who draws over the pencilled sketches with a brush and/or pen, also using permanent black ink. Now that the pages are drawn and lettered, we make copies of them and one of our swingin' staff of colorists paints these copies so that they can be used as color guides by the engraver when he receives the mag. After the engraver makes the engravings, they're sent to the printer and another Marvel masterwork is lovingly brought to life. Next, the millions of printed copies go to a national distributor who sends them to regional wholesalers who send them to your friendly neighborhood magazine dealer whose tender loving heart goes pitty-pat every time you buy one!

Excelsior!
Stan

HIDE KID mag is one of Marvel's steadiest and most dependable selling 15ers—and Western story fans everywhere have been demanding that we publish it monthly. So, shed a tear for poor Larrupin' Larry. Instead of coasting along, doing one mag every two months, and getting his kicks with the pencil sharpener, he's gonna have to leave the ol' corral and ride bent for leather to make his deadlines! Can he do it? Will he do it? We'll letcha know, soon as he dries his eyes.

ITEM! Remember a few years back when we told you about FEDERICO FELLINI visiting us at the Bullpen because he was a merry Marvel fan?

Well, who says lightning doesn't strike twice? We've gotta tell you that we have another, equally famous European film director who's equally hung up on our mixed up little mags. So say hello to world-renowned ALAIN RESNAIS, the French film genius who gave us such films as HIROSHIMA, MON AMOUR, LA GUERRE EST FINI... and LAST YEAR AT MARIENBAD. Alain's a fanatical Marvel booster from way back, and he and SMILIN' STAN have shared many pleasant hours rappin' about movies, comic mags, and the arts in general. According to Alain, Marvel Comics are definitely the "in" thing in the arty circles of Europe today—and that kinda talk isn't exactly gonna turn us off!—Just thought you'd like to know the company you're in, Faithful One!

ITEM! Here's a late flash from MARVELMANIA INTERNATIONAL (That new company we told you about a few issues back, remember?) All members in good standing of the ol' MMMS are eligible to join M.I. for the courtesy rate of only 50¢ which entitles you to a new membership card, club catalogue, and a copy of the club magazine. Just send your four bits for postage and handing to MARVELMANIA INTERNATIONAL P.O. Box 718 Culver City, Calif. 90230 (Honest Irving Forbush tried to sneak his own home address in there but luckily we caught it in time!)

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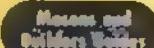
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Dear Stan, Roy, and Neal,

The name of Tolkien's ultimate villain...the name of...
NURONI

X-MEN #60 is the latest Marvel to reach England by a long shot—they're usually months behind. Before I comment on it, like to cast my vote for the continued story saga. When I was at Mongog (**THOR** #154-157), Naga (**SUB-MARINER** #9-13) the Sentinels (**X-MEN** #57-59) and try to find single issues us good, there are only a few copies of **DR. STRANGE** that compare. Not that one-parters are by any means bad, they should remain also.

As for "In The Shadow Of...Sauron" the story and art were fantastic except that the pteranodons (obviously from Ko-Zar's land) had tails similar to those of the rhamphorynchus. Pteranodons had no tails! As for Lykos becoming one, I'm waiting to see if my explanation concurs with yours. When Lykos was attacked by the pterosaurs, strange juices—perhaps blood—entered his body via his wounds and remained there until, in some incredible way, they reacted with Havok's power.

I'm looking forward to **TOWER OF SHADOWS**, but why don't we get any **SPIDER-MAN SPECTACULARS** in Britain? Rest assured—I'd buy one if I saw it.

Timothy Lees, 22 Rotsenale Road, Heald Green,
Cheshire, England

The **SPIDEY SPECTACULAR** was discontinued despite promising sales because of some staggering production problems, Tim—so it's not that you're missing any current issues; it's just that there aren't any.

As for just how Lykos became a human pterosaur (or Pter-Sauron, perhaps we should say), we're not sure we really gave much of an explanation except that he's something called a non-mutant variant—but your theory is pretty close to what Neal and Roy had in mind. Congrats, friend!

Dear Stan, Roy, and Neal,

Roy, you must have done some research to use pteranodons in **X-MEN** #60, but why didn't you do enough to know that pteranodons don't have tails! And, as if that wasn't bad enough, you and Neal showed the fingers that support the wing membrane coming out of the creature's arms. If you added together the fingers on the claws with the fingers coming out of the arms, the pteranodon that Neal drew on page 12 would have had 14 fingers! Well, at least you didn't show pteranodons with teeth...!

Now, don't get me wrong, Roy. Your scripting and Neal's art work were excellent. But, next time you use a prehistoric animal, get the facts straight.

Barry Alfonso, 2711 Magnolia Avenue,
San Diego, California 92109

Will do, Barry, although it could simply be that the creatures of the Savage Land are pterosaurs of a type whose fossils have not yet been found on earth—and that the real mistake was merely in calling them pteranodons at all. To tell the truth, what is happened is that Roy knew the creatures weren't your standard pterodactyls, and they seemed to match a written (non-pictorial) description he had read of pteranodons—so he called them by that name and was caught with his paleontology down. Next time, he hereby promises to call all winged reptiles by the generic name "pterosaur" and save himself and Neal a heap of problems!

Dear Stan, Roy, and Neal,

In **X-MEN** #60 Scott shouldn't have been wearing his sunglasses. Why? Because his powerful optic blast would have knocked them off his face. If Cyclo can stop a falling boulder and push it back up you know what he can do to his glasses. In **Ish** #60 he didn't have a strap which held them to his head. He didn't have a strap in any other **Ish** either. You've been making that mistake for years. You had better put a strap on his sunglasses or he'll kill everyone that he looks at!

So until Cyclo switches to 3-D glasses—**MAKE MINE MARVEL!**
Norman Morris, 36 Anna Street,
Dayton, Ohio 45147

Come to think of it, Norm, although we've never explained it fully, we've always kind'a assumed that the substance of which Scotty's sunglasses are made acts as a sponge to soak up the cosmic energy which is constantly building within Cyclops' awesome eyes-energy which is only released when the glasses are suddenly removed. Frankly, we feel that's about the only explanation possible—as any kind of straps which would hold the glasses on tightly enough would probably cause the rays to ricochet wildly around any room he might happen to be in. But, we'll listen to any conflicting arguments...!

Dear Stan, Roy, and Neal,

As most avid readers of **X-MEN** know, the power of a mutant influences his mind, as well as his body. Because of this the power of a mutant (he who has X-tra powers) is modified by the mutant's intelligence.

For instance, Magneto has become the most powerful of all the evil mutants, mainly because he knows how to use his power. On the other hand, the Toad could better his power if he knew how to use it. It's obvious that the mutant's power rests on his ability to use and control his power. If a mutant doesn't have this ability his power would be useless to him, as in Toad's case.

The second part of my letter concerns the most powerful of the good mutants, Havok. It was once said that Cyclops is the most powerful of this group. But not any more! With the introduction of Havok, we have seen one who could possibly challenge Magneto by himself. What makes him so great? His power is almost unbeatable and cannot be controlled. I have come to the conclusion that Havok could knock Scotty down if they ever had a mix-up.

Let's put a little more romance in the scene. There isn't enough and I hope you'll do something about it. I was surprised when Lorna said on the bottom panel of page 7, **Ish** #60 "Nobody's girl." Don't you guys know when you have a good thing going? Until I burn my M.M.M.S. card, **MAKE MINE MARVEL!**

Ed Bishop, U.S. Naval Station, POB 15, c/o FPO,
New York, New York 09597

Don't burn that M.M.M.S. card, friend! As you know from reading this month's Bullpen Bulletin, it's worth its weight in gold when you join the swingin' new **Marvelmania International club!**

As for what we have in mind for both the **X-Men** and the recent addition Lorna and Alex, we'll have to ask you to await developments in future issues. You'll have to take up Lorna's "nobody's girl" attitude with the mesmerizing Miss Dane herself—you know that the chivalrous Bullpen would never argue with a green-haired lady!

KNOW YE THESE, THE HALLOWED RANKS OF MARVELDOM:

- R.F.O.** (Real Frantic One)—A buyer of at least 3 Marvel mags a month.
- T.T.B.** (Titanic True Believer)—A divinely-inspired No-Prize winner.
- Q.N.S.** (Quite 'Null Sayer')—A fortunate frantic one who's had a letter printed.

- K.O.F.** (Keeper Of the Flame)—One who recruits a newcomer to Marvel's rottickin' ranks.
- P.M.M.** (Permanent Marvelite Maximus)—Anyone possessing all four of the other titles.
- F.F.F.** (Fearless Front Facer)—An honorary title bestowed for devotion to Marvel above and beyond the call of duty.

Dear Stan, Roy, and Neal,

Imaginative technique in presenting X-MEN #62 marked this issue as the best of your monthly offerings by far. Of course, a fantasy tale such as this one, by reason of its very nature, demands strong imagination in its initial conception. And, aside from the obvious derivation of Ka-Zar from another, much older character of fantastic tales, the story abounded with imaginative episodes. Roy Thomas has kept up a constant stream of excellent scripts for the past 7 or 8 months now. The twist ending in this issue revealing the Creator to be none other than Magneto was characteristic of Roy's recent, fresh style.

But, to repeat myself, the real merits of this story are found in the imaginative approach utilized in presenting the tale rather than in the necessary imagination required in the conception of the characters, setting, and plotline. Mr. Adams has, since the disappearance of Steranko, become the master of unique presentation in the comic strip format. His multiple tankerships with space perception, elapsed time between individual panels, panning, dramatic and cinematic angles, extensions beyond panel borders, and of course, arrangement of panels making the whole page a collective piece of art, are a sight for sore eyes and a feast for the starved gourmets of the comic strip. His dream sequence was superbly rendered; it matters little whether or not it was inspired by an earlier Steranko sequence in NICK FURY. Now, after so much dwelling upon the manner in which his drawings are presented, let's take a look at his inherent drawing

His dinosaurs, while not anatomically flawless, were delightfully Adams with their gnarled, clutching talons. Comic art needs to be exaggerated to provide greater impact upon the reader and thus, seldom is any living creature shown within the medium drawn in correct proportions. Witness the remarkable physique of each and every Marvel hero and villain. Adams' depiction of emotion-filled faces crackles with tension. His rendition of Amphibus puts many a Bug-Eyed-Monster of the late EC group to shame.

Thus it was that I spent well over an hour reading (or rather looking at) the issue. Page 18, depicting the crisply-drawn demise of the Piper is by far the best page in this issue. Its Steranko-like symmetry of panel arrangement was a masterpiece of simplicity. The abrupt shock-cuts and close-ups were masterfully done and flowed as smoothly as any of the best of comparable Eisner-Spirit sequences. Until Steranko returns (indeed, perhaps even after), Adams reigns unchallenged in my book. He has brought X-MEN from the very bottom of the Marvel barrel to the top of the heap.

In closing, I feel I must mention that I do realize that a lot of the credit for the above-mentioned effects should go to the writer, Roy Thomas. The pacing, intelligent lack of dialogue where needless, and much of the sequencing are factors exhibiting his clear understanding of the comics medium.

Douglas Moench, 1673 West Pratt,
Chicago, Illinois

Doug, we always hate to play favorites 'cause we enjoy just about every littin' letter which crosses our desks and drawing boards—but Roy and Neal have just voted your epistle their special award for Most Perceptive Critic of the Month! 'Nuff said!

Dear Stan, Roy, and Neal,

I'm writing to you about one of your greatest and loveliest characters, Marvel Girl. I have a theory concerning Jean's telekinetic ability: what it is and how it works.

Here goes: Jean has the power to generate an electro-magnetic screen around objects, people, etc., and around herself. Anything in this screen would be affected neither by gravity nor inertia.

In other words, it's an antigravity screen. This explains how she does all of her telekinetic tricks, including levitating herself. She can't lift enormous weights because of the energy needed to produce the screen. But, I think Prof. X taught her how to conserve her energy, channel it properly, so that eventually Jean need less energy to lift greater weights.

That accounts for her new ability to levitate herself. The spare energy was used to amplify her latent telepathy, bringing it to full scope.

This theory may be wrong, but no other person has really explained Marvel Girl's power. If she could develop telekinesis

further, Jean would be the most powerful X-Man, more powerful in fact than many of your other costumed cut-ups.

Yours until Ieman take a vacation in the Sahara Desert!

Charles Hunt, 1206 South Denver, Apt. 308,
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119

Tell you what, Charlie. We've discovered from past experience that many of our readers know more of the intricacies of telepathy, telekinesis (mind-over-matter), and other such things than we do—so we'll sit back and wait for some of our own public defenders to carry the ball! (Or, who says this isn't the Marvel Age of Indolent Editors?)



Dear Stan, Roy, Neal, and Tom,

Artwork is the heart and soul of the comics medium. If there is a bad artist, there's a bad strip. Witness X-MEN #'s 46, 47, and 48. Not that the artwork was so bad, but it wasn't comparable to the recent art by Mr. Adams.

It has been noted that these three issues were some of the worst ever put out by Marvel. They were terrible! But then... 49! Although there was nothing spectacular about the story and the art inside, the cover was the thing. With Steranko on the cover of one of Marvel's worst comics it was shown that bigger and better things were to come. And they did. #50. Steranko. Magnificent. Beautiful scripting, and excellent art. Too good to be true. It couldn't last, I said to myself. Next issue. What? Why it can't be true! Another Steranko! Better than last timel Story... excellent! Another milestone in Marvel's history. It can't last.

And it didn't. #'s 52, 53, and 54. They didn't compare with the other issues. #52 was all right, and the art was okay, but it just didn't click. With Smith on the X-MEN the art was so bad that it's a miracle it was even printed. For #54, I've the same comments I had for #52. It was all right but nothing spectacular. Then came #55. For some reason the art and script improved quite a bit. It was really very good. X-MEN was coming up. What next? Adams.

The art of Adams is the best Marvel has. Absolutely perfect! Mr. Palmer's inks were also beautiful. It made a perfect example of how good comics can really be. Adams and Palmer, two names to go down in comics history. Roy is the best writer you have. Roy has a way to interweave action with just the right amount of plot-building.

In conclusion, the X-MEN are destined for greater heights. Also... KEEP ADAMS!!

Mark Verheiden, 3245 S.W. 185th Street,
Albion, Oregon 97005

Mark, we're big Neal Adams boosters since the days when he was working exclusively for one of our capricious competitors—but we've had to throw in an extraish or two by other, also-talented artists because the Nefarious One labors so long over each and every pulse-pounding page that he's sometimes hard-pressed to make a strict monthly deadline.

The same goes for Roscally Roy, whose scripting you obviously seem to enjoy. He spends much longer writing THE X-MEN each month than he does any other book—and the same thing goes for the incredible inking of Tender Tommy Palmer, who's been known to burn both ends of the candle himself in order to apply all those eye-catching tones which enchant his fast-growing legion of fans).

In short, THE X-MEN has been a labor of love for all three of our hard-working artists—and the Roscally One was truly chagrined when, because of the short, one-week vacation he took at the end of August, he wasn't able to script this latest episode himself—and lose all that time and money again! That's devotion, lad!

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